

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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47

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 121000Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

UNCLAS LUANDA 1080

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP AO

SUBJECT: PRODUCT OPPORTUNITY: LOCOMOTIVES

REF: STATE 268521

1. THE DIRECTOR OF PORTOS E CAMINHOS DE FERRO DE LUANDA HAS COMPLETED TECHNICAL STUDY AND WILL RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PURCHASE OF GENERAL MOTORS LOCOMOTIVES. HE HAS NOT YET FORWARDED HIS FINDINGS TO THE SECRETARY BUT PLANS TO DO SO WITHIN A FEW DAYS, AS THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOTIFY GM OF THE DECISION BY DECEMBER 20.

2. THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS TOLD ME ON DECEMBER 11 THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN PROCEEDING WITH THE PURCHASE. HE WILL CALL ME AS SOON AS HE HAS STUDIED THE DOCUMENTS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PORTOS E CAMINHOS DE FERRO THESE LOCOMOTIVES WILL BE USED FOR PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN LUANDA AND VIANA AND LUANDA AND CACUACO, BOTH TOWNS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LUANDA. THE LUANDA RAILWAY DEPENDS LARGELY UPON PASSENGERS FOR REVENUES; THERE IS SOME FREIGHT HAULAGE TO AND FROM THE INTERIOR, BUT THE TOTALS HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY STAGNANT IN PAST YEARS. THE NEW LOCOMOTIVES ARE SMALLER AND MORE SUITABLE FOR SHORT HAUL PASSENGER WORK THAN THE PRESENT LOCOMOTIVES, WHICH ARE TO BE RELEASED FOR HAULING ORE FOR MINERAS DE LOBITO.
KILLORAN

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